

## Health Care Reform – Children's Transition Project

First 5 California is funding the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board and the Department of Health Care Services to conduct an assessment of Healthy Kids, Cal Kids, and Kaiser Children's program operations and make recommendations about how to transfer enrollment of these children to either the Healthy Families (HFP) or Medi-Cal (MC) Programs. The assumption is that legislation will pass that will expand HFP to 300% FPL and allow enrollment of undocumented children in HFP and MC. Funding for the project ends in July 2009. The collaborative effort of all stakeholders over the last few months has produced the following.

- + Staff meetings with Children's Health Initiative (CHI) representatives (known locally as Healthy Kids) and advocates to outline policy issues and establish guiding principles for a transition are ongoing.
- + Staff surveyed each CHI, Cal Kids and Kaiser in the areas of data systems, eligibility methodology, and enrollment strategy. Staff meetings with all CHIs (29) to discuss findings are ongoing.
- + Staff concluded that the majority of the children enrolled in CHIs are Medi-Cal eligible (i.e., under 200% FPL) and undocumented. Less than 10% are in households with income between 250 – 300% FPL.
- + Staff's preliminary findings show that CHIs utilizing One-e-App (8 counties) may be transitioned more easily since all pertinent data is readily available in electronic format. Other CHI data systems do not include all necessary data elements.
- + Staff's preliminary findings show that inconsistent income calculations, lack of authority to share information with the state, and self-certification of income are obstacles that will need to be addressed in a CHI transition.
- + Staff established preliminary discussions with Cal Kids and Kaiser Children's Program. These two programs collectively have almost as many children enrollees as the CHIs.

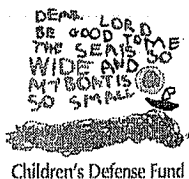
**FUNDING:** Children enrolled in CHIs ages 0 – 5 are primarily funded through local First 5 California entities. This funding source has allowed most of the CHIs to continue offering enrollment to the 0 – 5 population. First 5 funding is in place for most of the CHIs through June 2009. In contrast, all except for a handful of CHIs are closed to new enrollment for their 6 -18 year olds. Funding for the 6 – 18 population is received in most part from The California Endowment. This funding source sustains current enrollment. Almost all CHIs maintain a waiting or interest list.

**NEXT STEPS:** MRMIB will continue to lead the transition project and produce a preliminary plan that will address the obstacles identified in the CHI surveys. Recommendations on transitioning children enrolled in the CHIs, Cal Kids, and Kaiser Children's Programs will be included in a final report to First 5 California in July 2009. Staff from the Department of Health Care Services and a consultant funded by the Packard Foundation will contribute to the report. Any transition is contingent on enacted legislation that will expand HFP and MC.

### Non-Gov. Children's Health Coverage Enrollment

COUNTY	HEALTHY KIDS		STATEWIDE	CAL KIDS	7,100
	Enrollment as of 10/08	Wait or Interest List as of 4/08		KAISER	60,000
Alameda	Closed on 9/30/08				
Colusa	52				
Del Norte	Enrollment directly in Cal Kids				
El Dorado	113				
Fresno	1,604	28			
Humboldt	Enrollment directly in Cal Kids				
Kern	893	817			
Kings	160	95			
Los Angeles	31,947	2,847			
Marin	Enrollment directly in Cal Kids				
Mendocino	Enrollment directly in Cal Kids				
Merced	356	503			
Napa	230				
Orange	1,165	2,000			
Placer	58				
Riverside	5,786	4,174			
Sacramento	945	135			
San Bernardino	2,050	3,156			
San Francisco	3,608				
San Joaquin	2,489	423			
San Luis Obispo	556	683			
San Mateo	6,368				
Santa Barbara	1,199	210			
Santa Clara	9,665	1,394			
Santa Cruz	1,607	470			
Solano	1,000				
Sonoma	487	200			
Tulare	420	1,337			
Yolo	152	32			
Yuba	114				
TOTALS	72,864	18,504			

+ About 20% of CHI enrollment is 0 – 5 year olds.



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March 21, 2008

Dear Colleague,

On behalf of Californians for Healthy Kids, we are writing to provide you with an update on our effort to win health coverage for all children in the state. As you know, we filed an initiative, the Children's Health Insurance and Youth Smoking Prevention Act of 2008, in early February and have spent the last month informing key leaders about the measure and seeking funds to support this effort.

In order to qualify the measure for the November ballot, we needed to raise approximately \$4 million in about five to six weeks. While we received much support, and some funding commitments to both the signature gathering and campaign phases of this effort, in such a short time period we were not able to raise sufficient funds to meet the deadlines imposed by the Secretary of State for measure qualification.

Given the number of uninsured children in our community, and the support for children's coverage among health leaders and the public, we have decided to continue moving forward with the planning process that will lead to the placement of a children's health measure on the June 2010 or November 2010 ballot. In order to have the maximum period of time for signature gathering, we anticipate filing the new measure in the summer of next year.

The Governor and others continue to aspire to a comprehensive solution that includes large-scale systemic reform and universal coverage, and we support this goal. However, we plan to continue our efforts unless a legislative or ballot measure strategy for comprehensive reform emerges with a strong likelihood of success. With state budget cutbacks, the economic downturn, and the challenges facing the local children's health initiatives, thousands of children in our community are losing coverage. We are compelled to respond to this need.

Over the next twelve months, we intend to work hard to deepen and broaden the base of support for children's health coverage. We will develop a campaign with a large number of donors, well-tested messages, and a strong grassroots base. In order to do so, we will need to expand our circle.

Thank you for your leadership in children's health and your continuing interest in helping to find a sustainable solution for children's coverage. We look forward to working together to make this long overdue reform a reality for California's children.

Sincerely,

Wendy Lazarus  
Founder and Co-President  
The Children's Partnership

Jim Keddy  
Director  
PICO California

Ted Lempert  
President  
Children Now

Cliff Sarkin  
Senior Policy Associate  
Children's Defense Fund California